Union Territories are included in the Southern Region for distribution of power genertaed from Central Power Stations:—

(i) Tamil Nadu

(ii) Andhra Pradesh

(iii) Karnataka

(iv) Kerala

(v) Pondicherry

(b) The formula adopted for allocation of power from the Central thermal/atomic power plants is as under:—

(i) 15 per cent power is kept unallocated, at the disposal of the Centre, to meet the urgent requirements of individual States in the Region, from time to time.

(ii) 10 per cent power is allocated to the "Home State" in which the power station is located.

(iii) The balance 75 per cent power is distributed amongst the beneficiary States in the Region, including the "Home State", in accordance with the energy consumption by, and the Central Plan assistance to, the States during the last five years. The needs of the Union Territories are also met by appropriate allocation.

Expenditure incurred on the construction of Bombay-Pune Gas pipeline

3641. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the expenditure incurred on the Bombay- Pune pipeline constructed by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation to carry Petroleum products and what time was taken to build it up;

(b) when did the pipeline actually start functioning;

(c) whether it is functioning satisfactorily at present, if not, when it stopped functioning;

(d) what are the reasons for the closure of the pipeline and what steps the Central Government are taking to open it and when it is likely to restart functioning;

(e) whether it is a fact that theft of petroleum products was committed from this pipeline in the recent past; and

(f) if so, what are the details and action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The expendiutre incurred on Bombay-Pune Product Pipeline (excluding Loni Terminal) by HPCL was Rs. 45.54 crores and the time taken to construct the Pipeline was 27 months.

(b) The pipeline started functioning from Dec. 12, 1985.

(c) and (d) On Jan. 2, 1987, a burst occurred in the pipeline and there was also a consequential fire near the Mankhurd Railway crossing. As a result, the operation of the pipeline was closed on Jan. 2 1987. Although, the necessary repairs, etc. where completed soon by HPCL, the pipeline could not be recommisioned for want of necessary permission from the Government of Maharashtra which was greatly concerned with the safety of the nearby Thane-Creek-Bridge along which this pipeline passes. In view of the stage at which the Government of Maharashtra's permission with certain conditions came subsequently, it was felt that instead of spending the time and money in implementing the conditions of the Government of Maharashtra for operating the pipeline on a temporary basis, the advisable course would be to commission the pipeline by implementing the plan of a submarine pipeline under the Thane-Creek. Work on this submarine pipeline is in an advanced stage and on its completion, the pipeline is expected to be operational by October, 1988.

(e) No, Sir, as the pipeline is not in operation since January 2 1987.

(f) Does not arise.